GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1164
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2013
BROADCASTING OF NEWS AND CURRENT AFFAIR PROGRAMMES
Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep;Tagore Shri Manicka

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private radio stations including community radios are not permitted to broadcast news and current affair programmes in their radio channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government has any proposal to allow them ,to broadcast news and current affair programmes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said proposal is likely to be implemented?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
(SHRI MANISH TEWARI)

(a) & (b): No Sir. As per the policy guidelines for expansion of FM Radio broadcasting services through private agencies (Phase-III) the permission holder will be permitted to carry the news bulletins of All India Radio in exactly same format (unaltered) on such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed with Prasar Bharati.

Clause 5
(vi) of the policy guidelines on Community Radio state that `the permission holder shall not broadcast any programmes, which relate to news and current affairs and are otherwise political in nature`.

(c) & (d): There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.